COMIC SHOP NEWS
The Art of Jeffrey Jones

Along Came Jones

The 1960s were a glorious decade for paperback cover illustration. *Frank Frazetta* and *Roy Krenkel* reimagined the worlds of *Edgar Rice Burroughs* with a series of striking covers for Ace Books. From there, Frazetta provided the quintessential barbarian images for Lancer's ***Conan*** paperbacks. At Bantam, *James Bama* updated Doc Savage for a new generation of readers. *Leo & Diane Dillon* brought their imaginative sense of design to play for Ace's SF Specials line.

And a new artist, *Jeffrey Jones*, burst upon the scene with some of the most striking art on paperback shelves. After a modest beginning in 1967, Jones became a mainstay of virtually every publisher in the SF/fantasy field, supplying scores of paperback covers and hundreds of pages of comics art before gradually moving away from commercial illustration in the 1970s, returning only infrequently after that.

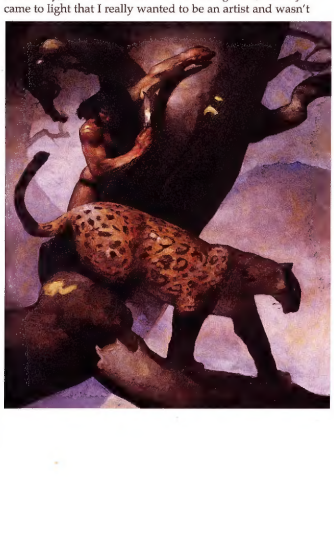
Jones' work, both commercial and fine art, is spotlighted in ***Jeffrey Jones—A Life in Art***, a comprehensive study prepared and edited by Desperado Publishing's *Joe Pruett* and published by IDW.

Originally known as *Jeff Jones*, then *Jeffrey Jones*, the artist has in more recent years found balance in her life as *Jeffrey Catherine Jones*. "I knew I wanted to be a girl," Jones explained in an autobiographical essay on her website jeffreyjones-art.com. "Maybe I was born with a kind of gender inversion—some call it a birth defect. I know nothing of these things. I do know that my identification has always been with females—in books, movies, art and life. My best friends have always been female and I have always been exclusively physically attracted to females. So, along comes puberty. *Whoa!* We were all confused, I know, but within that maelstrom was my desire *for*, and the desire *to be*, a girl... In August of 1998 I decided to stop the denial and start living as a woman... After extensive tests, both mental and physical, I started hormonal gender re-assignment therapy... People have been unimaginably supportive, and slowly that shame is passing away. My wife, Maryellen, has been my backbone through all of this..."

Jeffrey Catherine Jones may have seemed to be an overnight sensation, but her artistic beginnings date back many years before her work became a mainstay of paperbacks, magazines, and comics. "As a kid, I liked to draw," Jones said. "That's not unusual, because all kids like to draw, but I liked to draw more than most... I did my first comic strip when I was five years old. It was a one page humor strip with a character I created named Homer. It was kind of fun, but after I did that, I didn't do any more comics for years...

"In the 11th grade, I met *B.B. Sams*. He was an incredible artist—just incredible. He really inspired me, and he influenced my work more than any other single person.

"I started doing art for fanzines in the early 1960s. I told my father I was going to be an artist and he discouraged that; he was of the generation that grew up in the Depression, so security was very important to him... I was in my first year of college, going to my classes, and I had a kind of a nervous breakdown and ended up in the psychiatrist's office at Emory University; after a few visits and some long talks, it really came to light that I really wanted to be an artist and wasn't going to be happy doing anything else."



Jones knew that relocation was necessary to succeed in commercial art. "In those days, New York was where *everything* was published, and if you wanted to do commercial art, that was where you could get your start. You had to peddle your wares—walk up to the art director and sell yourself and your work. Soon after I got there, I got paperback cover work from Ace Books and comics work from *Archie Goodwin* at Warren, so I started my career right there.

"I can still remember coming back from seeing Archie at the Warren offices, and he had given me a script. I sat at my drawing table and just freaked out, thinking, What am I going to do now? I have to draw professionally!' So I did the splash page three or four times and finally got something that I liked, from there, the rest of the story flowed. I took it intro the offices, Archie bought it, nd that's where it began."

While some attempted to categorize Jones as a Frazetta imitator, her work differed from Frazetta's in design and in execution. "I was going through a lot of influences at the time. I had my *N.C. Wyeth* influence, my *Frank Frazetta* influence, my *Gustav Klimt* influence, my *Alphonse Mucha* influence. The more artists I saw, the more I would try to incorporate elements of their work into my own. I wasn't imitating them, though; I would learn something that they had brought to their work, but I would leave their style behind and take what I had learned, then incorporate it into what I wanted to do."

In 1968, Jones began a long association with the work of *Robert E. Howard*. "When I did *Donald Grant's* edition of ***Red Shadows***, I got a lot of work from other companies as well," Jones said. "A lot of publishers were trying to get *Robert E. Howard*'s non-Conan stories into print, and I got a lot of those cover assignments."

Ironically, Jones' impressive body of *Robert E. Howard* illustration includes very few depictions of Howard's flagship character, Conan. Was it Jones' choice not to do Conan, or was it just coincidental? "I think it happened both ways," Jones said. "The books that were given to me—Solomon Kane, Bran Mak Morn, the stuff that Howard wrote that was not Conan—well, that's what I was given to illustrate. But *Frank Frazetta* ***owned*** Conan; everyone knew that Frazetta was the Conan man. But there was a lot of Howard material coming out, so I ended up doing a lot of those covers."

In spite of a long association with Howard's work, Jones isn't really an avid fan of sword and sorcery and heroic fantasy, the two genres with which Howard was most closely associated. "All along, I was much, much more interested in *Edgar Rice Burroughs*. Here was this guy, Tarzan, who had been abandoned in the wilderness, and he grew up alone and had to fend for himself. As a kid, I felt the same way; I really identified with

Tarzan, so I enjoyed drawing and painting Tarzan much more than any of the barbarian heroes. I saw Tarzan as a graceful, feral, and I tried to depict that. He was leaner than the barbarians, he didn't have the bulk, and he was so lithe as he moved through the jungle. And there was the fact that he was royalty in England, which gave a whole other dimension to him."

Many readers discovered Jones through the distinctive, esoteric, and unpredictable ***Idyl***, a comic strip that appeared in ***National Lampoon*** for several years. How did the strip come about? "*National Lampoon* actually approached me to do a one page comic," Jones said. "I enjoyed doing it immensely. I never wanted to do superhero stories; they just didn't appeal to me.

"***National Lampoon*** asked me and *Bobby London* and Kaluta and Rodriguez and a lot of people; we went in with ideas, and mine was Idyl. Some of the guys jumped out and didn't stick with it. I continued, though, because I was having a lot of fun. I thought that ***National Lampoon*** was great; I got to draw naked women, I got to do what I wanted, and I got paid for it!"

In addition to spotlighting Jones' commercial and comics art, ***The Art of Jeffrey Jones*** also includes an impressive selection of Jones' portrait and landscape work. The landscape work, in particular, is quite different from Jones' commercial work. "I think it's because the landscapes are painted in the field, and you've got to get it done fast," Jones said. "The light's changing, things are moving, bugs are landing in your face, winds are blowing the easel over—you have to work very quickly..."

Jones still paints and draws today, producing work that she enjoys rather than producing pieces on demand to satisfy the whims of an art director or an editor. She's quite happy to be removed from the demands of commercial art, responding instead to the urgings of her own muse. " I enjoy it when people like my work," Jones wrote on her website, "because I want to have added something to this world, or whatever gave me life, instead of just taking from it. Every work, hopefully, will leave me unsatisfied. This drives me on to the next one. As soon as I think I've done something great it'll all be over."

The Art of Jeffrey Jones, a $49.99 hardcover offering more than 250 pages of Jones art, including never-before-published pieces, is slated for late November release; IDW will also offer a $79.99 signed edition. To see more art, visit http://www.csnsider.com/spotlight.htm

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

The Buck Drops Here!

DC comics has announced that, as of January 2011, they will return to a $2.99 cover price for all of their standard-length 32-page comics.

"Today's announcement re-affirms DC Comics' commitment to both our core fans and to comic book store retailers," said *Jim Lee*, DC Comics Co-Publisher. "For the long term health of the industry, we are willing to take a financial risk so that readers who love our medium do not abandon the art form."

"As Co-Publishers, we listened to our fans and to our partners in the retail community who told us that a $3.99 price point for 32 pages was too expensive. Fans were becoming increasingly reluctant to sample new titles and long term fans were beginning to abandon titles and characters that they'd collected for years." *Dan DiDio*, DC Comics Co-Publisher, added. "We needed a progressive pricing strategy that supports our existing business model and, more importantly, allows this creative industry to thrive for years to come. With the exceptions of oversized comic books, like annuals and specials, we are committed to a $2.99 price point."

When taking into account mini-series, annuals and specials, more than 80% of DC's comic books will be priced at $2.99.

As of January, the following titles standard length ongoing titles, previously priced at $3.99 for 32 pages/22 story pages, will be priced at $2.99 with 32 pages/20 story pages:

- ***American Vampire***
- ***Batman: The Dark Knight***
- ***Batman Incorporated***
- ***Green Lantern: Emerald Warriors***
- ***JSA All-Stars***

As of January, the following licensed titles, previously priced at $3.99, will be priced at $2.99:

- ***Gears of War***
- ***God of War***
- ***Kane & Lynch***
- ***Ratchet & Clank***

As of January, the following ongoing titles previously priced at $3.99 for 40 pages/30 story pages including co-features, will no longer include co-features and will be priced at $2.99 for 32 pages/ 20 story pages:

- ***Action Comics***
- ***Adventure Comics***
- ***Batman: Streets of Gotham***
- ***Detective Comics***
- ***Doc Savage***
- ***Justice League of America;***
- ***Legion of Super-Heroes***
- ***The Spirit***

In January, five books are $3.99 for 40 pages/30 story pages:

- ***Batman: Europa # 1***
- ***First Wave # 6***
- ***DCU: Legacies # 9***
- ***Weird Worlds # 1***
- ***World of Warcraft: Curse of the Worgen***

The following oversized anniversary issue will be $4.99 for 48 pages/38 story pages:

- ***Hellblazer # 275***

"Fans of our co-features should stay tuned. Some of these characters will find a new platform," DiDio said. "Going forward, miniseries and special events may feature a different price point and page count to best allow writers and artists the flexibility of format and story pages they need to tell their stories best."

One day after DC's announcement, Marvel's Senior VP of Marketing and Sales *David Gabriel* said that DC would also reduce the cover price of some of its titles to $2.99 in January, but they will maintain the 22-story-page count. Later statements made it clear that many new books debuting in 2011 will carry a $2.99 price, but it was unclear whether some of the titles currently priced at $3.99 might be reduced to $2.99 as well. Gabriel pointed out that a linewide reduction in prices, which would impact revenues and profits for friendly neighborhood comic shops, might jeopardize some shops' continued profitability (and thus their existence).

Look for more news regarding these changes in upcoming issues of ***CSN***.

CSNsider

Early October's New York Comic Con brought a heaping helping of comic book news from some of the industry's biggest publishers as well as a number of comics publishing's rising stars. Here are some of the highlights from a busy convention weekend:

DC

•*Jim Lee* said that ***Dark Knight: Boy Wonder***, the miniseries that picks up where ***All-Star Batman & Robin*** left off, is still slated to debut in February. He reminded readers that this is the younger version of the Batman featured in ***The Dark Knight Returns***, a "ruthless" hero whose personality becomes more balanced due to the introduction of the young Robin.

•*Geoff Johns & Ivan Reis* are working on "Secret Origins 2," which will spotlight the fall of Sinestro.

•The animated ***Green Lantern: Emerald Knights*** is coming in June.

•*Gail Simone* said that next story arc in ***Birds of Prey*** will be "The Death of Oracle," which she promises will be "a real game-changer."

•The final issue of ***First Wave*** will introduce new characters to the pulp-multiverse that is already the home to Doc Savage, the Spirit, the Blackhawks, Rima, Batman, and others.

•*Nick Spencer & Bernard Chang* take over as the creative team for ***Supergirl*** beginning with #60; Spencer said that there will be several teenage guest stars and a new villain in the first arc.

•A twelve-part ***Shade*** miniseries is in the works.

•*Phil Jimenez* will supply the art for the Legion Academy backup stories that begin in ***Legion of Super-Heroes #6***, writer *Paul Levitz* said. This group will then move over to ***Adventure Comics*** for a while before getting its own series. ***Legion Academy*** will feature ties to the contemporary DCU.

•*James Robinson* is working on a ***Congorilla*** oneshot and a ***Hawkman*** series for DC.

•*Kevin Maguire* is introducing a new character, Tanga, in the upcoming ***Weird Worlds*** series, explaining that "she has the power of Silver Surfer and the personality of Sarah Silverman."

•*J. Michael Straczynski* said that a new form of kryptonite is coming—and this one affects humans, not Kryptonians.

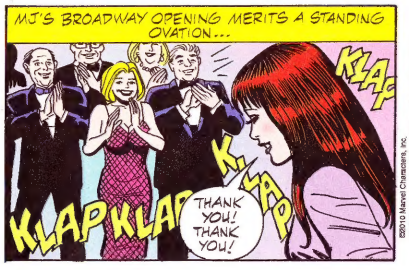
•***Brave and Bold*** is most definitely *not* cancelled, in spite of rumors to the contrary; upcoming issues feature Lois Lane & Adam Strange and Supergirl & Phantom Stranger.

•DC strongly hinted that a *Jeff Lemire*-written ***Atom*** ongoing series was in the works.

•Looks like fans will have to wait a bit longer for *Grant Morrison's* ***Multiversity***. "We're waiting for Bruce Wayne to get back," DC co-publisher *Dan DiDio* said. "This is a story that only Grant Can do." The story will be presented in five chapters with five different artists chosen by Morrison.

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER



I GUESS YOU WON'T BE SEEING MUCH OF YOUR WIFE IN THE EVENINGS FOR A WHILE, PETER.
KLAP
KLAP
KL
YOU'RE RIGHT, AUNT MAY! A HIT LIKE THIS CAN RUN FOR MONTHS!
KLAPKLAP
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-18

©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

COMIC SHOP NEWS
Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
©2010 Comic Shop News, Inc. All Rights Reserved

EDITORS Cliff Biggers, Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
wbatty@csnsider.com

#1219

www.csnsider.com
twitter.com/csnsider

•Celebrity chef *Anthony Bourdain* is co-writer of a new graphic novel, ***Get Jiro!***, co-written by *Joel Rose* and illustrated by *Langdon Foss*. The tale is set in a near-future world in which (betcha could never guess...) *food* and its preparation are of prime importance, and master chefs are more important and influential than politicians.

•*Brian Wood & Ryan Kelly* launch the Vertigo series ***The New York Five*** in January 2011; the series was originally planned as a Minx graphic novel prior to the cancellation of the line, but will now appear as a four-part mini instead.

•*Brian Wood* confirmed that his Vertigo series ***DMZ*** will come to an end with #72.

•*Jay Cantor & James Romsberger* chronicle the tale of a guard and a detainee at Guantanamo in ***Aaron & Ahmed,*** an original graphic novel that Romsberger said "tries to explore the roots of terrorism."

•*Chris Roberson & Sean McManus* are working on a new ***Fables*** miniseries, ***Cinderella: Fables Are Forever,*** a sequel to the duo's first ***Cinderella*** limited series.

•*Jill Thompson* revisits the world of *Neil Gaiman's* Endless with the original graphic novel ***Delirium's Party: A Little Endless Storybook.***

•*Leslie Klinger*, author of ***The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*** and ***The Annotated Dracula,*** will offer more fascinating background info in ***The Annotated Sandman,*** a four-volume collection that will offer page-by-page commentary on every issue of the acclaimed *Neil Gaiman* series; Klinger has worked closely with Gaiman to make sure the books are as informative and insightful as possible.

•***100 Bullets*** creators *Brian Azzarello & Eduardo Risso* will reunite for a new Vertigo project. "We're getting the band back together," Azzarello said, but he offered no further information about what their new project might be.

•*Bob Wayne* is the new Senior Vice President, Sales of DC Comics. Wayne will continue to oversee sales distribution for DC Comics in the direct market and bookstores, and in his new role will and will now oversee digital sales and all international distribution. A comics retailer prior to joining DC in 1987, Wayne is one of the medium's most knowledgeable and passionate advocates.

•*Hank Kanalz* has been promoted to DC Comics' Senior Vice President-Digital, overseeing DC's Burbank-based digital comics division.

Marvel

•Marvel editor-in-chief *Joe Quesada* offered a few more CrossGen teasers at the NYCC, including a depiction of a red-haired woman wearing a Sigil and what appeared to be a new picture of the detective Ruse, accompanied by the statement, "I have one creator name for you: *Mark Waid.*" Waid was, of course, the co-creator and original writer of ***Ruse*** for the original CrossGen before he left the company.

•*Brian Bendis & Michael Avon Oeming* are working on an Icon graphic novel, ***Takio,*** which Bendis described as "all-ages fun like ***Ultimate Spider-Man.*** As a result, the duo will put ***Powers*** on hiatus for a while.

•*Brian Bendis & Alex Maleev* are working on anew ***Moon Knight*** series; Bendis indicated that it would present a reinterpretation of the character that they developed after being challenged by *Joe Quesada.* "We've come up with a hook that you've never seen before," Bendis said.

•*Jeph Loeb* said that he and *Tim Sale* still plan to produce ***Captain America: White,*** a look at *Steve Rogers'* early days as Cap, but the series was on hold until Sale finishes the art. "Our target date is to have it out by the movie," Loeb said.

•Marvel publisher *Dan Buckley* said that non-*Mick Anglo* Marvelman stories are coming sometime in 2011.

•*Christos Gage* has signed an exclusive contract with Marvel.

•***Secret Warriors*** comes to an end with #27 in April. "We've always had an ending planned," writer *Jonathan Hickman* said. "It's nice when Marvel lets you tell a story with a beginning, a middle, and an end. I think you're going to like where everything ends up..."

•*Nick Spencer & Barry Kitson* are working on ***Iron Man 2.0,*** a book that focuses on James Rhodes, exploring what it means to be War Machine.

•"Onslaught Unleashed" is a big event that Marvel has planned for February. "Onslaught has been trapped in the Negative Zone, where time moves differently," writer *Sean McKeever* said, "so he's been waiting a long, long time for his revenge."

•*Andy Diggle & Adi Granov* are working on ***Astonishing Captain America,*** a miniseries that editor *Tom Brevoort* described as "a huge, rollicking super-spy action adventure" that focuses on Steve Rogers, spanning from the WWII years to the present.

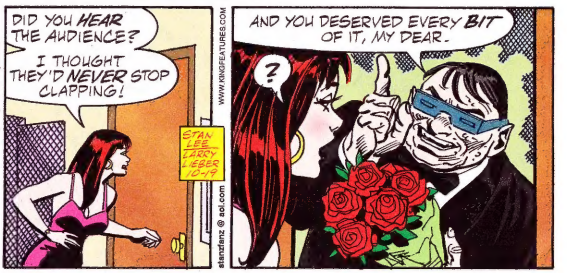
•*Daniel Way & Jason Pearson* have been tapped as the new creative team for ***Astonishing X-Men*** beginning with #36; the first arc will pit the X-Men against "big Jack Kirby-style monsters," editor *Axel Alonso* said. Now that *Warren Ellis* is off the series, Marvel is confident they can keep it on a monthly schedule.

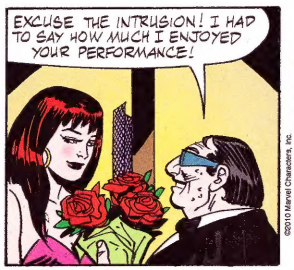
•*Kathryn Immonen & Phil Noto* are working on a ***Wolverine/Jubilee*** limited series. "Jubilee will be changed by the outcome of the vampire invasion, and her relationship with Wolverine will also be changed," Immonen said.

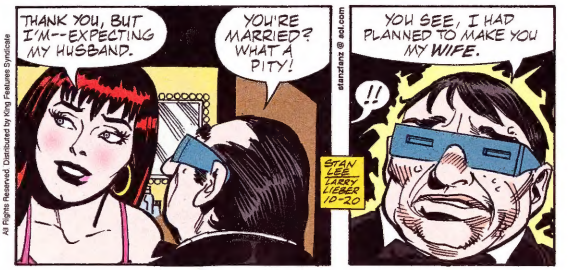
•*Frank Tieri & Juan Santacruz* will kick off a ***Wolverine/Incredible Hercules*** miniseries in March.

•*Jason Aaron & Ron Garney* launch ***Ultimate Captain America*** in January; the miniseries will spotlight the Vietnam-era Captain America, who has returns after having been AWOL for years to make Steve Rogers aware of what the US was like during the Vietnam area.

•***Fantastic Four #587,*** the issue in which one


DID YOU HEAR THE AUDIENCE?
I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER STOP CLAPPING!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-19
AND YOU DESERVED EVERY BIT OF IT, MY DEAR.
?
©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
stanzfanz @ aol.com




THANK YOU, BUT I'M--EXPECTING MY HUSBAND.
YOU'RE MARRIED? WHAT A PITY!
YOU SEE, I HAD PLANNED TO MAKE YOU MY WIFE.
!!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-20
©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
stanzfanz @ aol.com

BATMAN
THE DARK KNIGHT
FINCH
2010
A NEW ONGOING SERIES WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID FINCH INKS BY SCOTT WILLIAMS
DCCOMICS.COM

member of the team dies, will reportedly ship in a black polybag, an homage to the classic ***Superman* #75** "Death of Superman" packaging.

Ape Entertainment

•Ape Entertainment has signed a deal with American Greetings Properties to bring ***Strawberry Shortcake*** to comics. "The great thing about ***Strawberry Shortcake*** is that it crosses generations and brings parents and kids together," Ape founder and co-publisher *David Hedgecock* said. "Unlike a lot of comics found on the shelves today, this is a property that the entire family can enjoy. It's both nostalgic and new, all at the same time." Published under the company's all-ages KiZoic imprint, the title is slated to debut in early 2011, complete with exclusive scratch-and-sniff covers.

•The poor little rich kid is about to make comic book readers' lives a little richer! Ape Entertainment and Classic Media have signed a deal to bring ***Richie Rich*** back to comics in an all-new series that will update the concept, transforming Richie Rich into a globetrotting adventurer who uses his limitless wealth for good. Part James Bond, Jr., and part Indiana Jones, with Donald Trump's bank account, Richie Rich helps the less fortunate with the assistance of. With his close-knit team of friends, including an updated supporting cast.

"We are excited to partner with Ape Entertainment for a reimagining of ***Richie Rich***," *Karyn Schneider*, VP, Licensing, Classic Media, said. "Richie is a long-standing star of the comic book world and we look forward to adding new adventures to his story."

"Everyone inside the Ape HQ grew up a ***Richie Rich*** fan," Ape Entertainment founder and co-publisher *Brent E. Erwin* said. "What we're hoping to do with the property now is update it with a contemporary spin and bring even more action and intrigue to the original stories we all grew up on.

"While there will be plenty of adventure, there will also be plenty of fun. Ape is by no means reinventing the wheel, just adding another spoke. And in the words of Richie Rich, you can take that to the bank!"

The first issue of ***Richie Rich*** will appear in early 2011 under Ape's KiZoic all-ages imprint.

Archie

•Archie Comics is adding another videogame-based comic to its line with the debut of ***Mega Man*** in 2011. ***Mega Man,*** based on Capcom's videogame hit, joins the ultra-popular ***Sonic the Hedgehog*** as a part of Archie's monthly line.

Written by *Ian Flynn* and illustrated by *Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante*, Mega Man is set to blast his way back into the comic book world in his own monthly action in the spring.

"Since 1987, the enormously successful ***Mega Man*** franchise has conquered media from video games to television to manga. Archie Comics is ready to carry on this tradition of success, holding true to the spirit of the old school with a fresh eye on Mega Man's strong potential in the world of American comics," ***Sonic*** and ***Mega Man*** editor *Paul Kaminski* said.

Mega Man will follow the original Rock/Mega Man in his battles against the maniacal Dr. Wily. Mega Man's jam-packed, fast-paced adventures are told from the perspective of Rock (a.k.a. Mega Man) the young boy with a peaceful heart now thrust into a life of conflict.

"Readers can expect non-stop action, as well as an exploration of the themes of family, choice and loyalty that make the ***Mega Man*** franchise a property that connects on a very personal level," Kaminski said. "From there, we hope to fully explore not only that classic world, but the other spin-offs including ***Mega Man X, Mega Man Zero, Mega Man Legends,*** and more!"

Atlas

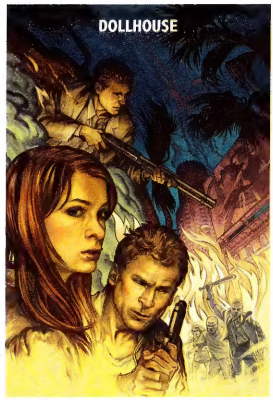
•Atlas Comics has announced that writer *Jim Krueger* and artist *Dean Zachary* have been tapped as the regular creative team of ***Phoenix.*** "We're rebooting the series," Deneen said. We're taking the original premise to the next level. The books still focuses ona guy who is abducted by aliens and uncovers their plot, but we're adding things that have never been done before."

•Atlas has also named the creators of ***Grim Ghost***. *Stephen Susco,* writer of the *Sarah Michelle Gellar*-starred horror films ***The Grudge*** and ***The Grudge 2,*** is writing the series, while *Qing Ping Mui* will supply the visuals.

•Atlas has also tapped *Steve Niles & Nat Jones* to do the honors on their barbarian hero ***Wulf.***

•*J.M. DeMatteis* has announced his departure as editor-in-chief of Ardden Entertainment. "It's been a great ride building this new company with Ardden co-publishers *Brendan Deneen* and *Rich Emms*—both of whom, I hasten to add, are terrific guys—but, as we've all worked together to prep the Atlas material, co-creating the new versions of ***Grim Ghost, Phoenix,*** and ***Wulf the Barbarian,*** it's become clear that we have different visions of how to proceed," DeMatteis wrote on his blog. "After pondering long and hard, I decided the best thing would be to put on my parachute and exit the Ardden Tower, leaving the Atlas revival in Brendan and Rich's very capable hands. It was fun flexing my editorial muscles, seeing the comics world from the other side of the desk, and I may do it again one of these days."

Bendan Deneen said that "*Richard Emms* and I are sad that Marc has decided to move on, but as his fan and his friend, I have learned an incredible amount under his tutelage." As a result of DeMatteis's departure, Deneen will become editor-in-chief of Ardden and Atlas, with Emms assuming the role of designer-in-chief and *Jim Krueger* coming on board as consulting editor. "I look forward to having the already-legendary *Jim Krueger* edit our comics," Deneen said.



Dark Horse

•Dark Horse will offer a ***Dollhouse*** oneshot in April, based on the short-lived *Joss Whedon* TV series. The comic, co-written by series writers *Jed Whedon & Maurissa Tancharoen,* will lead into a ***Dollhouse*** miniseries.

•*Mike Mignola & Christopher Golden* are working on a sequel to ***Baltimore: The Plague Ships.*** The new five-part series, ***Baltimore: The Curse Bells,*** will kick off with a May 2011 Free Comic Book Day launch.

•Not only is *Steve Niles* ***Criminal Macabre*** returning, but there's a ***Criminal Macabre/The Goon*** crossover in the works.

•*Scott Lobdell* will write the fourth volume of Aspen's ***Fathom,*** the series created by *Michael Turner.*

Disney

•Disney Publishing is producing a ***Pirates of the Caribbean*** comics anthology, ***Six Sea Chanties,*** that features stories set at different periods of ***Pirates of the Caribbean*** continuity, including a prequel to the new film, ***On Stranger Tides.***

•Disney Publishing will also ***Mickey Mouse*** graphic novels, including one based on the ***Epic Mickey*** videogame, along with an original tale set in the world of the game, and more.

IDW

•Positive reader response to the resurrected ***Famous Monsters of Filmland*** has been so positive that the magazine is advancing from quarterly to bi-monthly publication beginning with December's ***Famous Monsters #253.***

Image

•*Ben McCool & Nikki Cook's* ***Memoir,*** originally slated for 2010 release, has been pushed back to January 2011. Set in a world in which everyone wakes up with no memories of who they are, where they are, or what happened to them, the book focuses on the only man who remembers everything. McCool describes the series as "a twisted horror book with noir elements."

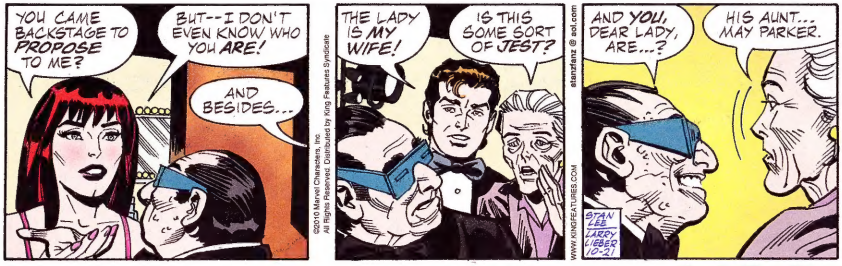
•*Nick Spencer's* ***Infinite Vacation,*** coming in early 2011 from Image, is set in a world where people drift from one alternate reality to another on a routine basis. The story's star is a man who is addicted to the "Infinite Vacation," but is forced to question everything he believed to be true as a result of an unusual occurrence.

•*Robert Kirkman* is plotting a trilogy of ***Walking Dead*** prose novels focusing on characters no longer involved in the series; these novels, which will be written by horror writer *Jay Bonansinga,* will expand the back story of the ***Walking Dead*** series.

•*Tomm Coker & Daniel Freedman* are working on a new Image series, ***Undying Love,*** which deals with a man who falls in love with a woman, only to discover that she's a vampire. The only way he can free her from her vampiric curse is to find and destroy the vampire who created her.

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in January

Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season Eight comes to an end with #40, the finale of "Last Gleaming" by *Joss Whedon, Georges Jeanty, & Andy Owens.* At last, Buffy completes her long journey home—but betrayal comes in the shape of the closest, most unexpected individual of all. Reeling from their losses, the Scoobies will never be the same again.


YOU CAME BACKSTAGE TO PROPOSE TO ME?
BUT--I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE!
AND BESIDES...
THE LADY IS MY WIFE!
IS THIS SOME SORT OF JEST?
AND YOU, DEAR LADY, ARE...?
HIS AUNT... MAY PARKER.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER '10-'21
©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
stanzfanz @ aol.com
WWW.KNUFF-CHUFFIES.COM

As Texas goes to Hell, a group of homeless outcasts—led by a young woman who appears to have second sight—evade volcanic eruptions, mass hysteria, and man-eating monsters in ***BPRD: Hell on Earth—Gods #1*** by *Mike Mignola, John Arcudi, & Guy Davis.* And when things go weird, the BPRD take notice...

Comics legend *Jerry Robinson* offers an insightful look at the art form in ***The Comics—An Illustrated History of Comic Strip Art.*** The 400-page oversized hardcover, a fully reworked and updated edition of Robinson's 1974 study of comic strips, chronicles the origins and evolution of comic strips, from prior to the Yellow Kid through today, and highlights the game-changing contributions of such creative luminaries as *Milton Caniff, Walt Kelly, Hal Foster,* and *Winsor McCay,* among countless others.

While chasing a giant bat through the forest, Hellboy meets an old man with insider knowledge of the coming vampire apocalypse in ***Hellboy: The Sleeping & the Dead #1,*** the kickoff issue of a two-parter written by *Mike Mignola* with art by *Scott Hampton,* who makes his ***Hellboy*** debut with this gothic tale.

The year is 4000 CE, twenty-one years since the first uprising of sapient Q-ROBs was crushed. A new rebel leader has arisen—Jocko, a Q-ROB engineer with a burning vendetta against Magnus and especially Leeja Clane—and he's out to even the score in ***Magnus, Robot Fighter #5*** by *Jim Shooter, Bill Reinhold, & Jesse Delperdang.*

Mass Effect 2 lead writer *Mac Walters* reveals the origin of the galaxy's most mysterious powerbroker—The Illusive Man—in ***Mass Effect: Evolution #1,*** the first issue of a four-parter by *Mac Walter, John Jackson Miller, & Omar Francia.*

Still haunted by the events in ***Revenge of the Sith,*** Darth Vader must set aside his past and put his future on hold for a mission to the mysterious Ghost Nebula to locate—and if possible, rescue—a missing Imperial expeditionary force in ***Star Wars: Darth Vader & the Lost Command #1*** by *Haden Blackman, Rick Leonardi, & Dan Green.* But what seems a perfect opportunity to lose himself in his duty is complicated by two factors: he is paired with a willful yet highly competent co-commander, and the officer they are being sent to locate is the son of Vader's rising nemesis, Moff Tarkin.

After hundreds of years, the Sith Empire has returned to the galaxy, determined to crush the Republic that sent them into exile. For young Sith Teneb Kel, it is his only chance to rise above his lowly beginnings as a slave and prove his worth to the Dark Council. Yet their mission for him is unexpected. He will not hunt Jedi, but rather a fellow Sith—the Emperor's apprentice! Witness the hunt in ***Star Wars: The Old Republic Volume One—Blood of the Empire*** by *Alexander Freed, Davè Ross, & Mark McKenna.*

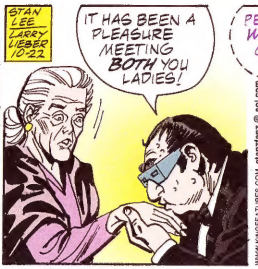
Danny McBride co-writes the prequel to Universal's upcoming film ***Your Highness.***

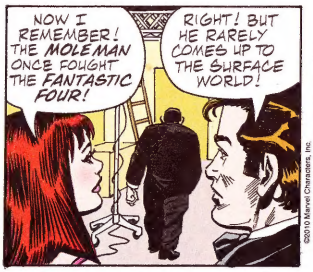
Dark Horse's ***Classic Archie Character*** syroco-style statue line continues with its fourth offering, ***Jughead.*** Limited to 550 pieces, the statue is packaged in its own tin box, with a pin-back button and character booklet.

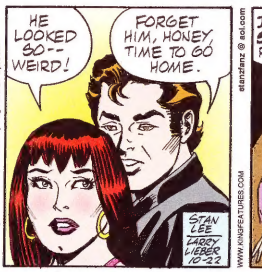
Dark Horse collected volumes include:

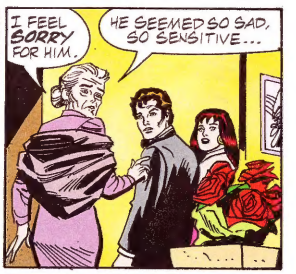
- ***The Chronicles of Kull Volume 4: The Blood of Kings & Other Stories,*** collecting ***Kull the Conqueror v2 #s 1 & 2*** and ***Kull the Conqueror v3 #s 1 & 2.***
- ***Creepy Archives Volume 9 HC,*** collecting ***Creepy #s 42-45,*** featuring work by *Richard Corben, Dave Cockrum, Mike Ploog, Bruce Jones,* and others.
- ***Doctor Solar, Man of the Atom Volume 2 TP,*** collecting Gold Key's 1960's ***Doctor Solar #s 8-14,*** with a foreword by *Jim Shooter.*
- ***The Finder Library Volume One TP,*** a 616-page trade paperback collecting *Carla Speed McNeil's* multiple Eisner Award–nominated story arcs "Sin Eater," "King of Cats," and fan-favorite "Talisman."
- ***Giant Size Little Lulu Volume 3 TP,*** collecting three out of print Dark Horse volumes in one hefty volume.
- ***John Carter of Mars: Warlord of Mars,*** a 632-page trade paperback collecting all 28 issues of Marvel's ***John Carter: Warlord of Mars,*** along with all three annuals, featuring work by *Marv Wolfman, Chris Claremont, Gil Kane, Walt Simonson, Frank Miller, Sal Buscema,* and others.
- ***Tarzan: The Jesse Marsh Years Volume 8 HC,*** collecting ***Tarzan #s 39-43*** by *Gaylord DuBois & Jesse Marsh.*

twitter.com/csnsider


STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-22
IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE MEETING BOTH YOU LADIES!
©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM starofanz @ aol.com


NOW I REMEMBER! THE MOLEMAN ONCE FOUGHT THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
RIGHT! BUT HE RARELY COMES UP TO THE SURFACE WORLD!
©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate





Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!

JOHNS TOMASI REIS GLEASON SYAF CLARK PRADO FINCH

BRIGHTEST DAY™

NOVEMBER

DCCOMICS.COM

Visit comicshoplocator.com

©, TM and © 2010 DC Comics.
All Rights Reserved.